

Fuel Reduction in Culturally Sensitive/Significant Areas
DRAFT

Resource Action Identification Form

It is anticipated that potential Resource Actions may be very preliminary at this stage. Please fill out as many sections as possible (understanding that you may not have this information or it may not be available) but, at a minimum, sections 1, 2, and 3. Resource Actions may be refined, reviewed and parked over time through Work Group, Plenary and Settlement discussions.

1. Name of Proposed Resource Action:

- a. Name of proposed Resource Action: Fuel Reduction in Culturally Sensitive/Significant Areas

2. Proposed Resource Action – Please describe and include the following:

- a. Describe the proposed Resource Action in as much detail as practical: 1,
1. Identify cultural sensitive areas, both archaeological and traditional cultural properties, that are in areas with excessive fuel loads. This can be done by using GIS information from cultural resource studies and land use, aesthetics studies, and perhaps environmental studies. Areas to be included are Craig Area, Goat Ranch, Potter's Ravine, and perhaps Foreman Creek.
 2. Once areas have been identified, systematically remove the excessive fuel load and once the fuel load has been removed, begin a prescribed burn program to maintain the fire safe, resilient landscape.
- b. Any physical or operational changes:
X Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
If Yes, Please explain: An on going fuels reduction program would be implemented for sensitive cultural resource areas through out the LOSRA. This may require additional tasks for seasonal crews in the area. The DPR trails crew could work on areas annually, like the work done in the Loafer Creek area, or CCC crews from Magalia could be contracted. A specific amount of acreage should be targeted annually with the amount of acreage perhaps decreasing through time as the fuel load is manually reduced and the annual tasks become more focused to prescribed burns.
- c. Proposed start date and duration
Start (month/yr): As soon as possible. Coordination with environmental and land use issues and stakeholders will be necessary. Duration (month(s)/yr(s)): On going
- d. Location (within FERC boundary/outside FERC boundary)
X Inside ☐ Outside ☐ Don't know
- e. Please specify possible location(s) referring to the linked map (<http://orovillerelicensing.water.ca.gov/maps.html>), or providing a map as

Fuel Reduction in Culturally Sensitive/Significant Areas
DRAFT

appropriate: A map can be done by using GIS information from cultural resource studies, and use, aesthetics studies, and perhaps environmental studies. Areas to be included are Craig Area, Goat Ranch, Potter's Ravine, and perhaps Foreman Creek.

- f. Please provide alternative potential Resource Actions for addressing the same resource goal and/or Project 2100 effects referring to the linked map, or providing a map as appropriate: Settlement Issue 21 from Land Use Resource Actions: Removal of Fuel Load in Forest
☐ Unknown

f.g. Describe the methods for measuring the goals and performance of the Resource Action or methods for evaluating success against the known resource goal(s): Fire effects (data loss through excessive temperatures, fire suppression ground disturbance, loss of cultural property integrity due to severe burning, and possible post fire erosion effects) to archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, and cultural landscapes are minimized by reducing the fuel load. Traditional plant resources and traditional land management activities are encouraged through the use of low energy fires (controlled burns) and are lost through high energy fires. Methods and goals can be addressed through standard fire management tools such as photography, biomass measurements, and other indices. A specific number of acres should be targeted at first and the goal and performance measured by accomplishment of this goal

☐ Unknown

g.h. Describe the feasibility of the Resource Action: Public outreach for the residential interface areas adjacent to the targeted areas will be necessary. California resources such as CDF fire safe neighborhoods and perhaps USFS/BLM programs may provide additional resources and provide the format for educating the public about fuel reduction benefits. Additional coordination will be necessary with other agencies such as USFWS, and Air Resources Control Board.

☐ Unknown

- h.i. Please mark the applicable Working Groups that would be involved in the implementation of this Resource Action:
- X Land Use and Management
 - X Recreation & Socioeconomics
 - X Cultural Resources

Fuel Reduction in Culturally Sensitive/Significant Areas
DRAFT

- ☐ Engineering and Operations
☒ Environmental

3. Contact Information for Submitter(s) & Alternate Contact:

- a. Organization name: California Department of Parks and Recreation
- b. Preparer's name, phone number and e-mail address: Leslie Steidl (530 538 2703, lstei@parks.ca.gov)
- c. Secondary contact person, phone number and e-mail address: Ellen Clark, (530) 538-2210, eclar@parks.ca.gov
- d. Date prepared: March 8, 2004
- e. Organization(s) represented by submitter: Northern Buttes District, DPR

Please fill out the following questions to the best of your ability, understanding that you may not have this information or it may not be available.

4. Resource Goals:

- a. Identify and describe the resource goal the Resource Action is related to, providing reference to the resource goal number(s) described, as appropriate: This Resource Action addresses a number of Cultural Resource Goals oriented towards protecting cultural resources:
C02.01- Evaluate the need and methods to provide protection of cultural resources.
C02.02 Emphasize protection of all significant cultural resource values within the APE
C02.03 Develop special protective measures for "high risk" situations.
C03.01 Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse project effects of existing and future project facilities, operations, and maintenance on cultural resources.
C03.03 Develop management guidelines addressing the potential effects of project activities on cultural resources, with emphasis on procedures needed to protect and enhance significant resource values.
C04.02-Maximize public benefits of the heritage values present in the project area.
C04.09 Provide areas for Native American collecting and gathering.

☐ Unknown

- b. Explanation of how the Resource Action furthers that goal: Catastrophic high energy wildfires can destroy cultural resources and seriously affect the integrity of cultural properties. One of the primary goals of the FERC

Fuel Reduction in Culturally Sensitive/Significant Areas

DRAFT

relicensing effort at Lake Oroville is to protect significant cultural resources. Land management activities during the first 50 years of operation of the facility has encouraged fire suppression and not encouraged active fire management through fuels reduction.

Fuel load reduction helps to protect cultural resources by reducing burn activities. Data values on archaeological sites can be lost by high temperature burns either through actual destruction or through changes of artifacts and features. Post fire erosion and exposure issues also threaten integrity and data at sites. Traditional plant communities, traditional landscape values, and traditional gathering areas can be seriously affected by a high energy wildfire which can completely destroy even very large plants (trees) and alter soil so that plants have difficulty reestablishing themselves. Additionally, fire suppression activities which often include large equipment threaten ground disturbance at archaeological sites and landscape changes at traditional cultural properties.

Reducing fuel loads in culturally sensitive areas should reduce temperatures in burn areas during a fire and thus: reduce destruction or changes to artifacts and features at archaeological sites, reduce the catastrophic effects to large plants, reduce effects to soil thus avoiding post fire erosion, and perhaps be beneficial to the traditional plant communities. With reduced fuel loads, traditional landscapes and gathering areas can again be managed with fire as a tool.

Protecting cultural resources from catastrophic high energy wildfires through specific land management practices will also increase the public benefit of heritage resources by maintaining public land that is accessible (not choked with brush), aesthetically pleasant (park like, open, and not a post fire charred mess with heavy equipment trails that will have a hard time recuperating), and

☐ Unknown

Fuel Reduction in Culturally Sensitive/Significant Areas
DRAFT

5. Identify the Resource Issue/Relationship to Project and Relicensing

- a. Describe the issue the Resource Action is intended to address, referring as appropriate to Issue Statement(s) number(s):

☐ Unknown

- b. Describe the relationship between the Resource Action and the project, including any project impacts the Resource Action is intended to address:

☐ Unknown

- c. Identify any comprehensive plans that this Resource Action is related to:

☐ Unknown